
T H E

CRISIS.

N U M B E R XXXIX. *To be continued Weekly.*

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An Ideal SCETCH of a FOOLISH KING.

Continued from Number XXXVI.

To the KING.



SUCH a King would occasion innumerable Distresses to his People, but feel none. The greatest he could be apprehensive of, and the only one he would regard, would be a deficiency of Votes. Perhaps a TEST, or ASSOCIATION, on the side of Liberty, might alarm him for a Moment, but Iniquity is ever fruitful in Expedients. One Parliament may easily be dissolved, and another smuggled by surprize. So many Years are now elapsed since the Revolution, that its Principles are almost forgot. They are showy in *Theory*, but obsolete in *Practice*. Besides, a hopeful Majority may always be obtained by multiplying *Placemen*, *Pensioners*, and even *Tax-gatherers*. An *honest* Parliament is the Representative and Servant of a *free* People, a *corrupt* Parliament is the *Creature* and *Slave* of a *foolish* King and a *knavish* Minister. This is governing not by *Policy*, but by *Stratagem*. Hence it comes that such a Prince
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need only ask and have. The Wretches who form this patriotic Majority, and give away the public Treasure thus profusely, share a Part, proportioned to their Merits in the public Plunder. This is not a System like that formed at the glorious Revolution, which introduced the present Family, from a contemptible Electorate, to the noblest Empire in the Universe) but it is such a one as originated under that great Corruptor and vile Minister (Sir Robert Walpole) and has shot up lately into most luxuriant Infamy, under the fostering Hand of Bute. It is a System under which the Prodigalities, Vices, Crimes, and Tyrannies of a foolish King will hourly increase. Till this raging Pestilence (Corruption) can be subdued, it will be the mutual and perpetual Interest of the faithless Majority to gram, and of the profligate Sovereign to remunerate the Benevolence and dutiful Attachment of his Myrmidons. Surely such a Pestilence as this in any State is far more dangerous in its Consequences than that among the Horned Cattle, which was once lamented with a fatherly Concern, at a Time when a great City petitioned, and exerted all its Zeal to destroy (among other obnoxious Pests) that many headed Monster Corruption. The horned Cattle was then a happy Thought, suggested by some sly Court sycophant (perhaps a Mansfield) in derision, and indecently adopted by his sneering Master. The Allusion (like the Wit was Low and Vulgar, fit only for the Mouths of the lowest Rabble. As the first Citizens in the Universe were buffooned under this unmanly, coarse Allusion, it is to be wished that Firebrands had been fastened to the Horns of that tame Herd, whose greatest Offence was an humble, constitutional, and just Supplication to the Throne.

These Horned Cattle (my Lord Mansfield) yielded daily Nourishment and Supplies to the Wants, Superfluities, Vices, and Profusion, of all the royal, ministerial, pensioned, placed, and bribed Blood-suckers of an oppressed and injured Nation. At the same Time, I must confess, it is an Instance of the greatest Condescension and Humility in your Lordships (whose Duty it is to bear the Standard of Liberty before the People, to submit to be the first Buffoon in a sycophantic Drawing Room. From this Digression I return, and must observe that when Grants are in any State too easily obtained by a foolish and profute Prince, from a venal and corrupt Majority, upon Grounds hardly Colourable, (without a due inquiry into the real Applications of so much Treasure) immense yearly Revenues will be squandered in royal Baubles, courtly Superfluities, and national Corruption. Nor will these stipulated Largeesses be sufficient of themselves, but
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further supplemental Supplies will modestly be asked, and most dutifully granted to eke out the small annual Revenue of near a Million, as often as that enormous Sum proves too scanty to answer the frugal, pious, munificent, and wise Purposes of a Monarch, whose Magnificence, Oeconomy, and Zeal for the Happiness and Prosperity of Himself, his Minions, and his People may be notorious.

A Revenue less than one Million was more than sufficient to defray all the Expences of the Crown, the Fleet, and the Army, in the Days of the renowned Elizabeth, embarrassed as she was both at home and abroad. At a far less Expence did that illustrious Princess support her Kingdom's Honour and her own Magnificence and Splendor, in the midst of the most formidable Attack that was ever made upon this Kingdom; not against the puffing Menaces of a few French flat-bottomed Boats, but against a real approaching Invasion of the whole Power of Spain with her invincible Armada. At that Period the Hand of Providence was seen, but the Hand of Wisdom, Prudence, and true Patriotism was not idle. At that Period it pleased Heaven to give Understanding to the Sovereign, Abilities and Integrity to the Ministry, and Virtue to the Parliament. The amiable, revered, and beloved Sovereign of that Day, saw with her own Eyes, and heard with her own Ears. She had Sensibility, Spirit, Fortitude, true Magnanimity and Discretion. She had Penetration and Sagacity. Her Piety, like her Courage, was unaffected: She disdained Hypocrisy, and upon all important Occasions she spoke and acted from an upright Heart. In her Reign (and it is not to be equalled in our Annals) the public Treasure was not lavished, but applied. It brought back Honour, Peace, Security and Freedom to the Nation. In worse Reigns, and under worse Administrations, it has been, and will continue to be, pusillanimously and treacherously applied, to purchase Infamy abroad, and slavery at home. In every Reign the continual and repeated Cravings of royal Dissipation and Corruption, ought to be suppressed. This Evil grows by feeding, and will at last prey upon the exhausted Vitals of an expiring Country. A weak and wicked Prince, makes the wealth of his Kingdom, an Object of his Thoughts, no farther than it serves to supply his insatiable childish Appetites, or tyrannical Designs. Were the Treasures of a Nation inexhaustible, and the dispensing Hand ever profuse, such a Cut-purse of the Realm, such a Royal Prodigal, would in six Months sink an imperial Revenue to a Farthing, and still remain in Debt to the meanest of his Traders and Domestics.

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At the same Time (so inconsistent is the Spirit of Profusion with pretended OEconomy) that the Current of all laudable Hospitality would be stopped in the very Kitchen of the Royal Palace; where even the menial Servants would be stinted to Board-Wages, and the Household Expences of a great Monarch pitifully curtailed to that of a Pound of Bread and an Inch of Candle. Under this Mask of domestic Prudence and Frugality, a venal and corrupt Set of Wretches (to whom the public Honour, the public Treasure, and the public Freedom were entrusted) would be exorbitantly bribed by this excellent OEconomist, with the Money of the Nation, to betray their Masters. A patriot King would exert his Talent of OEconomy in Matters of greater Honour and Importance. Instead of pinching the Bellies of his poor Domestics, he would save, not to dishonour, but to aggradize the Nation. He would be sparing in all unnecessary Impositions upon his Subjects. Safe in their Affections, his Fears would not suggest to him the Necessity of a most expensive, useless, and unconstitutional standing Army. That it is immensely expensive, the annual Estimates will evince. When I call it useless, no wise Man will affect Surprise till he has heard the following Questions fairly answered.—In an Island can such an Army be kept up against foreign Enemies?—No.—Islanders can fear none whilst their Marine is attended to. Let foreign, continental Powers be ever so ambitious, let them combine, unite and threaten; yet how can they invade? The Ballance of Power (so idly talked of by cratty Politicians) is to be kept, not by a tyrannic standing Army, but by a respectable Navy only.—Is this Army maintained for Shew and for Reviews? Hardly—turning, or making Buttons would be an Amusement less expensive to the Kingdom. But, is it maintained against the People? The most audacious Tyrant, or most abandoned Minister, would tremble to affirm it. Yet this, alas! is the real Truth.—It may be useful to protect an odious Sovereign and his corrupt Adherents against the Cries of Justice and an injured Nation. As soon as Corruption was found necessary for the Support of the political System, standing Armies were embodied, to maintain if possible, by Force, what Oppression and Tyranny must loose, in the Submission of an insulted People. Their Affections, in our new World of Politics, are not regarded. Is this a constitutional Army? No.—The national Militia is the only one, and the only one that ought to be endured in this Kingdom.—We have a national Militia, says my Lord North, by an Act passed in the Reign of his present patriotic Majesty.—It is true, my Lord, but this Act passed, not with the Wishes of Ministry; it was (in the military Phrate)

Phraſe,) a March ſtolen upon them. I refer to your Lordſhip's Recollection for the Hiſtory and Truth of what I now aſſert. The Digreſſion would be long, and foreign to my preſent Purpoſe, or I would give the Hiſtory of this Piece of patriotic Condeſcenſion in the Miniſtry. Another Opportunity may diſcloſe it, together with ſome valuable Anecdotes, and intereſting Remarks upon the Subject. —

It is now Time that I ſhould purſue my ideal Scetch of a fooliſh King. Imperious, ignorant, ſelf-willed, and ſelf-ſufficient, no wiſe and honeſt Counſellor would approach him. His Weakneſs would ſhut up every Avenue to good Advice. He would liſten only to that fawning Herd who might, probably, have the unparalled Impudence to embody themſelves under the arrogant Appellation of the King's Friends, (a new Order of Sycophants) as if the Wiſer and honeſter Part of the Nation were his Enemies. The Advice of ſuch Men alone would be reliſhed, as moſt grateful to his vitiated Appetites. Hence would ariſe real Grievances at home and in his Colonies. If the injured and oppreſſed Subjects remonſtrated in an humble, conſtitutional Manner, they would be derided; if they received the Chains and Badges of their Slavery with any Shew of Manhood and Reſiſtance, they would be treated as factious and rebellious. Such a Sovereign would not relieve, conciliate and appeaſe.—No—He would ſtill oppreſs, irritate, inſult, and, at laſt, endeavour to exterminate them. This would be his pious and parental Conduct in his Colonies.—At home, his Myrmidons, his mercenary ſtanding Army, would ſurround his Throne.—Theſe, inſtead of the conſtitutional Civil Power, would be employed, under a needleſs Pretence, of aſſiſting the Civil Magiſtrates in the Execution of the Laws; and, it is moſt probable, that theſe military Aſſiſtants would be guilty of military Murders. I can eaſily ſuppoſe ſome Parts of the Army (as well as of the Senate) not quite free from Infection in ſo corrupt a Reign. What if a ſimple Youth, drawn by indiſcreet Curioſity, to approach too near the Scene of Confuſion and Riot (which the unconſtitutional Appearance of the Military, inſtead of Civil Powers had occaſioned) ſhould be singled out, purſued, and butchered, though defenceleſs and unarmed? Let us ſuppoſe (for ſuch a Caſe has happened) that two military Scotch Ruſſians moſt maliciously purſued this unarmed Straggler, till he had taken Shelter in a Hovel, where, defenceleſs as he was, he might have been taken without a Blow, and brought to Juſtice, if culpable. Inſtead of ſeizing him (for he was incloſed, and the

the Door of the Hovel shut) these two military Executioners of our Laws perforated him most inhumanly in several Places with Bayonets fixed, till the unhappy Youth fell dead at their Feet, a Victim to the Janissaries of a standing Army. Can it be imagined that a wise or Christian Prince could not only approve, but applaud such a Massacre as this? Ought the royal Thanks to be publicly given to the commanding Officer in such a Scene? Ought the murderous Villains themselves to have the Means of an Escape provided for them? Ought Justice itself to be tampered with in their Favour? Ought such Cut-throats to be pensioned for their good Services? Ought there to have been a Sham-trial of two Persons who did not actually commit, but were Accessaries to the Murder, whilst the real Murderers were conveyed away privately? Ought a Judge to have laboured the Acquittal of these guilty Accessaries, knowing, and well knowing, that the Principals had escaped? Ought a chief Justice of England to connive at such Iniquity? Ought a Sovereign to patronize, protect and reward it? Ought he to go still further, and give formal Thanks to the Commander of this Atchievement so honourable to the British Arms? What could a NERO or a DOMITIAN do worse?

C A S C A.

[To be continued, Addressed to his PIOUS Majesty George III.]

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